


REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant has amended claim 16 to overcome the obviousness rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, and also provided a terminal disclaimer with fee to overcome the non-statutory double patenting rejection based on Applicant's earlier U. S. Patent 6,619,685.

In view of the above, Applicant believes the examiner will now find this patent application in a position for allowance and its expeditious passage to same is respectfully requested. Should the examiner disagree or have any questions, comments or suggestions that will render this application allowable, a call to the undersigned attorney of record is invited.

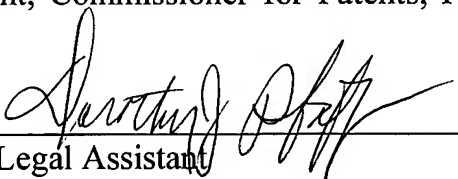
Respectfully submitted,
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR 1.8

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the above Response and Amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service by first class mail on the 24th day of September, 2004, addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450


Legal Assistant